

PORT OF ENTRY—CEDAR KEYS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 466.]

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MAY 28, 1842.

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MR. RAYNER, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Commerce, to which had been referred sundry petitions of citizens of Georgia and Florida, praying the establishment of a port of entry at Cedar Keys, submitted the following report:*

The committee, after having examined the petitions, and considered the grounds upon which application for a port of entry at Cedar Keys is made, have come to the conclusion that the prayer of the petitioners is well founded, and ought to be granted.

By the present arrangement of the collection districts on the Gulf side of the peninsula of Florida, the only port of entry for the western side of the peninsula, north of the 27th degree of latitude, is St. Mark's; which collection district, of which St. Mark's is the port of entry, extends from Ocklockney bay to Charlotte harbor, a line of coast of about five hundred miles.

The growing commerce of the fertile counties of Georgia and Florida, which find a natural outlet in the Suwannee river, and the other important rivers which flow into the Gulf through the fertile lands of the country below, would seem to entitle the people of those regions to the facilities to their commerce which the establishment of a new port of entry will afford. It seems that, at present, vessels have sometimes to sail out of their way two hundred miles, for the purpose of complying with the formalities of the custom-house regulations; and the committee have been informed, by the Delegate from Florida, that several vessels have been lost in their passage along the coast to the port of entry for the district, for the purpose of obtaining the proper clearance.

The committee report a bill, and recommend its passage.

